

The Sun

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Mr. Taft and the Butterflies.

We gather from certain ominous rumblings in and about Washington that whatever Mr. Taft himself may have in mind, certain anxious students of State affairs expect him to do something violent and reactionary in respect of our diplomatic service abroad. It seems hard, just as we have reached the point at which some at least of our envoys have begun to outline the local nobility in the matter of jewelry and to excel their most elaborate banquets by not less than three courses, that a new President should appear to put an extinguisher upon so noble and high minded a rivalry. There may be no foundation for this lugubrious foreboding, but it exists nevertheless, and in some quarters seems to cause exquisite pain.

For our part we can imagine nothing more beautiful and uplifting than the emulation which of late years has actuated certain of our envoys. As everybody knows, the routine business of many of the embassies and legations is conducted by a subordinate whose name is practically unknown outside the nimbus of the payroll. Some of the chiefs, here and there, may prefer to take part in the drudgery if they can find any not preempted by the messengers and under secretaries, but these we assume are eccentric persons with a lust for vulgar notoriety. It has come to be the real occupation of our diplomats of stellar magnitude to lead the social pageantry in their respective places of residence, to promote the diamond and confectionery trades and to lasso the titled aristocracy with lariat of hothouse flowers; and certainly it makes our democratic bosoms swell with pride at home to read in the chronicles of fashion that Madame TIARA BOOM DE ATE, the American Ambassadress, effaced the lustre of the Queen's and the Princesses' rivieres and headlights with the superior brilliancy of her own garness. It is an ignoble and a carping jealousy that degrades these triumphs of statecraft to the base purposes of criticism.

The indisposition of Congress to appropriate for the purchase of diplomatic residences abroad would seem to indicate a sympathy with the growing aspirations of our envoys. A permanent establishment in each foreign capital would perhaps identify the American establishment, give our representatives a local habitation and a fixed address, enable travelling Americans to find them readily and so derive some benefit from the service for the maintenance of which they pay. All of this to grovelling natures seems desirable and excellent; but such an arrangement would not be in keeping with the present spirit of our diplomacy. It would prevent Ambassador JOSHINS from hiring a finer place in So-and-So than Ambassador HAYSEED could afford to hire in Thingumbob, and it would handicap the chase of celebrities and so limit the bids for intimacy with the swell mob as to reduce American envoys to a common level theoretically and put a premium upon mere personal acquaintance in statecraft.

Of course, President TAFT can achieve the end in question first by his selections and secondly by such instructions through the State Department as will secure the desired consummation; but will he do it? Will he break upon a ruthless wheel the gaudy and bedizened butterfly? We hope for the best.

Lieutenant Petrosino.

Lieutenant JOSEPH PETROSINO of the police, who was assassinated in Palermo on Friday, was a particularly valuable man in the detection of Italian criminals and the investigation of the so-called "Black Hand" mysteries. His own opinion was that there was no formal "Black Hand" organization, but that the name and symbols of the "society" were adopted by individuals to terrify prospective victims and as an easy cloak to conceal their own identities.

The work that took PETROSINO to Italy was the most ambitious that the original investigators of New York have undertaken in many years if not in the history of the detective bureau. Its object was to adopt and carry out a plan under which the Government of Italy and of the United States, in conjunction with the police departments of various cities here and on the Continent, should cooperate for the detection and punishment of European and especially Italian criminals. In this work PETROSINO had a free hand. Commissioner BINGHAM had complete confidence in him, and the expenses of the journey, this city having failed to make provision for it, were paid out of a fund contributed by private citizens. The importance of the undertaking need not be pointed out.

As head of a division of the detective bureau here PETROSINO did work that brought him praise from his superiors and from the public. Of his

bravery there was no question. His enemies in this city are numerous—the men he sent to jail, their confederates and often their kinsmen. His skill is attested by the long list of convictions to his credit, a list the more impressive when the habits of secrecy and personal vengeance of those among whom he worked is taken into account. He died in the discharge of his duty, as many another policeman has died. Whenever temptation is strong to denounce the police force of New York as inefficient, corrupt and worthless it is well to recall the honorable roster of worthy men who, like JOSEPH PETROSINO, performed arduous and dangerous duties faithfully in the service of the public.

The Tax and Tariff Situation in the French Legislature.

The French income tax bill passed the Chamber of Deputies last Tuesday with an enormous majority, 407 to 166. It goes now to the Senate, and in the opinion of a vast number of Frenchmen to its death.

There is ready or nearly ready for introduction in the Chamber of Deputies a bill (projet de loi) for the revision of the French tariff almost as radical as the income tax bill itself. It has been prepared by a legislative commission which spent six months taking testimony before drafting it, yet it seems to have little chance of being enacted into law. The Ministry itself is openly and vigorously hostile to many of its features. On December 22 last the budget was adopted for 1909. It carries appropriations amounting to more than four thousand million francs (\$800,000,000). It is the largest budget ever prepared by a French Ministry, but confessedly it is to be followed by others even bigger. Some curious financial patchwork was done to make ends seem to meet upon its adoption, but in all likelihood it will not be a deficit at the end of the year. Despite balance sheets a deficit has been accruing year after year in France. It is represented to-day by a floating debt of something like \$368,000,000.

These are the three principal factors in the strange muddle of French national finance at the present hour. The country has a stupendous funded debt. Its present tax system, besides being in many respects antiquated, is insufficient for the needs of the exchequer. Higher and higher expenses both for military and sociological—or socialist—purposes are to be expected year after year for many years to come. Yet the two measures for the reform of the revenue now under consideration are by many, perhaps by a majority of the people, considered impossible, and their opponents embrace the best financial talent in the country. What is more, there is a widespread opinion that the principal measure, the income tax bill, though apparently having the support of the Ministry, has not really been pushed in good faith.

The *Independence Belge* in a Paris letter of recent date quoted a "Minister of great influence" as saying: "If we should let this Caillaux bill [CAILLAUX is the Finance Minister of the present Administration and the author of the bill] come out of the Senate victorious it would mean the downfall of the Republic in short order."

The Minister who said this might be Premier CLEMENCEAU himself. It is said that he is in secret opposed to the bill, though he has used all his authority to drag it over the difficult places in the Chamber. Indeed, there is a belief that the Ministry is badly split over this and other issues. M. BRIAND, who has gained an important status through his share in the enforcement of the church separation law, is along with CAILLAUX at the head of the faction hostile to CLEMENCEAU and aiming at his overthrow in the near future.

Why then, it may be asked, has CLEMENCEAU supported the bill? Why has he gone to the point once or twice of threatening to resign if this or that radical clause were excised from it in the Chamber? If you ask a Frenchman the question he will reply that CLEMENCEAU's motive is *amuser le tapis*—to kill time. If you ask further why the bill secured such a sweeping majority when a majority of the Deputies are said to be bitterly opposed to it, the answer again will be that they voted *amuser le tapis*—to kill time. Then you ask why all this amusing of the carpet or killing of time should be done at this time, and you will be told first of all that if the bill is defeated in the Senate or amended out of all resemblance to itself M. CLEMENCEAU will find himself in possession of a much desired opportunity to unload M. CAILLAUX and a good deal of the socialist programme which he represents. As for the attitude of the Deputies, you will hear, their votes are largely explained by the nearness of the next general election.

The present Chamber is now nearing its end. Many members are weary of the strength of radical promises which the Caillaux bill hardly surpasses, oppressive as it is in its discrimination against the wealthy and the well to do classes. These members and many others would not dare to go before their constituents in the spring of 1910, when the elections will be held, unless they had "made the bluff" of supporting the measure. The bill will be a leading issue in the next campaign, and there is not the least doubt that it is a tremendously popular measure with the Socialists, the trade unionists, the poorer classes in general and the radical elements in particular. In his final appeal, just before the passage of the bill in the Chamber, CAILLAUX declared that it would increase the burden of only one out of every 146 taxpayers, in other words that it will bear severely only on the rich. A big percentage of the voters will be sure to take this statement at its face value.

From the hour when the bill passed the Chamber, however, the real fight against it was begun. The struggle will be pushed in the Senate and before the electorate. A first gun was fired on Wednesday when Prince VICTOR NAPOLEON issued a statement in which he skillfully struck at the most obnoxious feature of the bill—its inquisitorial character. It establishes in fact an

elaborate and searching machinery for prying into the private resources of every citizen, his investments, his savings, his business transactions. This remains true despite extensive modifications of the methods originally proposed by CAILLAUX. The Prince denounces the system as a return to the fiscal methods which prevailed before the revolution. He warns the people that it will entail disastrous consequences. Recently a Paris paper which has been printing a series of educational articles on taxation made the bold and flatfooted charge that the income tax inquisition was a preparatory step to the confiscation of the goods of the rich. The Caillaux programme, it charged, was to use the first two or three years to find out who had money and where it was invested, and in the meantime work up socialist fervor to the point of demanding complete spoliation at the hands of the national Legislature.

The inquisitorial features of the bill will be made a feature of the fight in the Senate. This being a much more conservative body than the Chamber, the Senators may conceivably reject the measure simply because of these features, arguing that they are intolerable in a free country and yet indispensable to carrying out the purposes of the measure. The syllogism is just this: An income tax without an inquisition in France, therefore an income tax law would be futile and may as well be beaten. The Senate will not, however, be confined to this ground of opposition. The bill is said to have driven out of France already hundreds of millions of capital, seeking refuge not from the inquisition but from the tax itself. So alarming is this movement that a year ago the French Ministry proposed to enter into conventions with other countries, England in particular, for reciprocal discovery for purposes of taxation of investments made in one country by citizens of another, the tax to be collected in the domicile of the owner of the investments. No other country took kindly to the idea and nothing has been heard of it in recent months; but all owners of property, all backers of big industrial enterprises, all dealers in securities of large corporations prophesy, as a result of the régime of tax and surtax which the Caillaux system would establish, the paralysis of enterprise, the destruction of confidence, and a period of idleness, poverty and hardship such as France had experienced once before; that is, during the revolution, when the country was ruled by similar levelling and destructive theories of property and social organization.

The uncertain matter is the length of time that the Senate will take to reach final action on the bill. It was first introduced in the Chamber on February 7, 1907. It therefore took two years and thirty days to reach a vote on it as a whole. It was fought inch by inch by a band of the ablest financiers in the Chamber, headed by JULES ROCHER. As an illustration of the minute care with which legislation is conducted in France the debate of February 25 may be cited. Half a day was expended in discussing systems of rebates to taxpayers to avoid cases of hardship. One proposal was that deductions should be based on the population of the community in which the taxpayer lived, as a matter affecting the cost of living. Another proposal was that where three persons were to be supported out of one income 15 francs rebate on 5,000 should be allowed; for four persons 24 francs, for five persons 35 francs, and 10 francs for every additional person. This brought up the question as to how the earnings of children, added to the parent's income, should be treated.

Now in this dilatory system many people see a great danger in the Senate. What the opponents of the bill desire is its defeat or complete reconstruction before the election is held next year. They fear that if the elections should show an overwhelming popular sentiment in favor of the graded income tax system, instanced by the choice of an overwhelming radical majority in the Chamber, the Senate would bow to the popular will and pass something more like the Caillaux draft than it would be at all likely to accept now. This is, indeed, what CAILLAUX may be counting on, and the surprising spectacle may be seen of the radicals regarding the passage of the bill in the Senate in order that it may be an open issue in the coming elections. CAILLAUX, it is surmised, hopes to secure so much radical support in the coming struggle as to place him ahead of CLEMENCEAU in power. It is thought that he and BRIAND look forward to alliances with such leaders as CAMILLE PELLETAN, JAURES, and even COMBES, for the formation of a Ministry after the next election far more "advanced" in tone than the present Ministry and under whose lead France would plunge deep into socialism.

The advocates of the Caillaux bill estimate that it will bring in 694,000,000 francs annually, an advance of more than a hundred millions on the imports that it is to replace; but this relief is indefinitely postponed—even should the bill pass the Senate in some shape—by the final action of the Chamber. This consists in the passage of the amendment insidiously proposed by Deputy AUGUSTE MULAC of Charente, which provides that the income tax system shall not take effect for the benefit of the national treasury until a corresponding system is enacted for the Departments and municipalities. At the usual rate of French legislation, seeing that the latter bill is not even framed yet, this means a delay of from two to five years. In the meantime a deficit of \$12,000,000 for this year and more than three times as much for next year are forecast, with old age and State railroad employees' pension systems in contemplation to the tune of anywhere from \$35,000,000 to \$40,000,000 a year.

The radical proposals for a new tariff have caused great dissatisfaction in industrial and commercial circles. The National Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, through its president, Senator GOMOT, has addressed a letter to the commission that prepared the bill saying that since the features of the law of 1892, which had efficaciously served the interests of agriculture, were conserved in the new bill the society cordially indorsed all the rest of it. On the other hand the Economical Society of Industry and Commerce addressed a memorial to the Ministry protesting against the wholesale modifications which the bill proposes. There are 931 proposed changes, of which seven are reductions in the general schedules; and 822 in the minimum rates, of which but twelve are reductions. The society urges the Ministry to consent only to modifications affecting new articles which have resulted from the progress of science since 1892, or which have come into international commerce since that year. It urges rejection of all duties calculated to provoke reprisals, and it further urges the conclusion of long term reciprocity treaties.

The Government took no part in the framing of the new schedules. These seem to have been expressly designed as a bid for the rural vote, expressly devised with that object in view by the commission of Deputies, who may have thought that if the Caillaux bill would win all the proletariat of the cities their product would do the same in the farming districts. The Ministry, however, dared not approve the proposals of the measure even temporarily for campaign purposes. They realized that the effect abroad would be disastrous. With tariff legislation impending in the United States nothing short of a tariff war might be the result, seeing that many of the new French schedules are peculiarly unfavorable to articles of American manufacture extensively bought in France.

The tariff bill has been for some weeks in the process of remaking, the Ministry fighting hard against the agrarian and ultraprotective ideals of the commission. It is certain to be much more moderate than it was by the time it is introduced in the Chamber. It will probably bear but slight resemblance to its present self months or years from now when it completes its journey through both branches of the Legislature.

In the meantime a bond issue and minor changes in existing laws, such as higher succession dues on the property of decedents, higher taxes on the transfer of property, and a special tax on all places where absinthe is sold, are contemplated as temporary expedients for keeping the deficit in the treasury within bounds.

The New Theatre Bar.

Assemblyman CONKLIN has introduced a sensible bill to amend the liquor tax law so as to permit private schools to consent to the issuance of a license for trafficking in liquors in buildings within 200 feet of their establishments, a privilege which is now withheld from them. The bill is in the interest, specifically, of the New Theatre, the site of which lies within the proscribed 200 feet of the primary school of the Society of Ethical Culture. It is not a special or private bill, however, and its object is to put private schools generally in the same class with churches.

Under Section 24 of the liquor tax law the establishment of a bar within 200 feet of a church is forbidden, but this prohibition may be removed by the filing, with the application for a license, of a certificate signed by the proper church authorities giving the consent of the church to the traffic. Mr. CONKLIN's bill simply extends this right of waiver to the proprietors of private schools.

The bill violates no principle of the act it is proposed to change, and would work no injustice or injury to any interest. It should be enacted in order that the New Theatre and any similar enterprise of the future shall not be hampered by ironclad restrictions productive of no benefit to the public.

La Mogador.

The other day there died in Paris a very old lady, the Comtesse LIONEL DE CHABRIILLAN, who for a while, when the world was smaller and Paris was more truly its centre, enjoyed a European renown. For some years, under the name of CELESTE MOGADOR, she was the queen of the public balls, the woman that all Paris ran after, the person that every visitor to that town must see if he wished to make any impression on the people at home when he got back. She had had plenty of successors since, but she differed from them in that she took to writing when her heyday was over, and didn't do so badly at it.

It is in the comfortable, still wholly French Paris of LOUIS PHILIPPE that the Mogador fame belongs, the present Paris of THACKERAY, the reminiscent Paris of DU MAURIER, which had not yet been torn up by Baron HAUSMANN, so that you could follow your D'ARTAGNAN or other loved hero through the very streets and houses he had lived in. She was a tall, handsome woman with a good figure, so that one poet admirer called her "The Venus of Milo—with the arms." She came out of the streets according to the usual methods by which indigent young women suddenly attain affluence, and then she acquired her name. France had her troubles with Morocco even under LOUIS PHILIPPE, and when his sailor son, the Prince DE JOINVILLE, took a squadron to Mogador, he was the French love of glory attached the name to streets and fashion and to the MOGADOR. The name will last, for the young men who were writing then have lived, and when HEINE could write a poem about her and the romanticists speak of her in their stories and verses, the name will require an explanatory note at any rate.

When the revolution of 1848 and the coup d'état were over the MOGADOR was no longer young. She then married a young man of good family, for though it sounds impossible the name CHABRIILLAN is genuine, and published her memoirs. These were suppressed by the police, for the Second Empire was squeamish in those days. It was MOGADOR's notoriety rather than the contents of her book that was objectionable.

Her husband was exiled to a consulate in Australia, where he died before long, and on her return she wrote a book about that country. Then began a busy life, writing novels, writing plays, managing a theatre, till 1885, when the printed books cease to mention her. What she wrote was perhaps hardly literature, but her novels and plays were creditable performances, and French in those days had to be fairly good.

What happened to her in the last quarter of a century no account states. Whether she lived quietly on her savings or ended in the poverty and misery that moralists might call for to fit her beginnings, we cannot tell; there was a rumor that she was in some home for decayed authors or actors. At the rate fashion in its revivals is advancing into the nineteenth century it is likely to reach LOUIS PHILIPPE's time soon, and then the MOGADOR may have a renewed fame.

The Tariff at Princeton.

On Saturday night the Hon. ALTON BROOKS PARKER spoke on "The Tariff" at the "venerable and influential academy," as he called it, of Princeton; and no doubt much of the address was venerable if not all of it can be described as influential. Was it entirely fair, however, to those of the younger academicians whose daddies are pampered protectionists to use language like this:

"The people have suffered, and greatly, by the loss of the money taken from them through tariff statutes to fill the coffers of the protected interests. Yet great as that loss is, it is no wise compared with the damage resulting to them in the decay of political morals due to the successful efforts to utilize Government for business purposes. The steady lowering of political ideals leads to the gradual reduction of the tariff to a revenue basis should be entered upon and persisted in. Doubtless, to prevent such result, a panic will be threatened by the protected interests and may be precipitated, but their elimination from governmental control will be of infinitely greater value to the people than the cost of one or even many panics."

We are no worshippers of protection for protection's sake, but can it be that Americans are such fools that they have nourished an economic system which robs them to "fill the coffers of the protected interests"? If the people have suffered under protection, why are so many of Mr. PARKER's party eager to continue to suffer? Is there no way but protection to milk business for politics? Corporation regulation, for example. And then the rich comic idea of the protected interests biting off their noses to spite the tariff for revenue men. Really, the college of New Jersey was entitled to some sager thoughts.

Now that the Appellate Division has declared that the Public Service Commission is legal perhaps we shall notice the change.

But if a sudden rush of cold to the anti-Hughes lead does not cause the uncertain March weather the programme seems far different. Albany dispatch to the Tribune.

What if it does? The bastinado of righteousness will restore circulation. The enterprising Mr. HERBERT PARSONS promises to favor New York this year with a few more laws designed to make it difficult for the poor and the illiterate to vote. Mr. PARSONS's object is to restrict the suffrage to those who by birth, education and fortune are eligible to the Republican county committee's afternoon teas. When his patriotic programme is accomplished the Government will be administered with a ladylike gentleness and exclusiveness most gratifying to all, and many rude, rough, uncultured men who now have the temerity to think themselves worthy of the ballot will be reduced to their proper subordinate station.

Reprehensible as it is for a chauffeur—and a French chauffeur at that—to override an American flag used as a barrier to block his progress, we are not entirely without doubt as to the propriety of using the Stars and Stripes in a speed trap.

Pioneer Women Journalists.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: Why so snappish a tone from "H. H. H." in regard to Mrs. Carr's newspaper career? Mrs. Carr Chapman Carr, who is now in Europe and has seen none of this interesting controversy, never made any statement in THE SUN in regard to the matter. A writer in THE SUN said Mrs. Carr was the first woman employed on a newspaper in San Francisco twenty-five years ago. Afterward came a letter to block his progress, and in this country, a woman employed before that under Henry George when he was a San Francisco editor. Now comes "H. H. H." and says in a tone which implies that Mrs. Carr is trying to take some credit that is not hers that one woman did newspaper work in Stockton before that, another in Lincoln, another in San Diego and another in Chicago. What has that to do with San Francisco? A woman who lived in Stockton in 1834, in Baltimore, during or soon after the Revolution. New York, March 13. READERS.

Discrimination in the Streets.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: I am an automobile driver. For the last year I have had occasion to the twice a day one of our crowded thoroughfares over which a great deal of trucking is done. I have witnessed hundreds of flagrant violations of the rules of the road by truck drivers, and I have never seen one of them arrested. During the same period I have witnessed fifteen or eighteen arrests of automobiles for what seemed to me to be technical violations. I have seen a policeman arrest a truckman's team while he was in a saloon apparently getting a drink. Would he have done that for us? Is the teamster to-day the brother of the present policeman, or is he the father of our future policeman? Is it clear to every man that an automobile represents the personification of insolent wealth? W. N. H. New York, March 13.

Cry of the Book Lender.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: Why don't people return books? I had sooner lend a man 50 cents than trust him with a single volume, I don't care who the person may be. How will the following do attached to every book in the library with an appropriate illustration? The mixture of dog Latin and French is scarcely bad enough for a borrower. An even less palatable dose should be his eye. "Aspic Smith pendu. Quod librum n' pas pendu si librum redidisset. Smith pendu non fuisse." New York, March 13. HILLTOPPER.

The Heathen.

He was a heathen before, He did not go to church, And yet her Lenten works and deeds Still left him in the lurch. His glaring lack of proper clothes Her feelings outraged, She did not meet with clubs of friends To fashion him a shirt. He had no button to his name, But bravely wore a smile; Yet not for him her needle flew Her conscience to beguile. And so his most belighted state Her zeal could not arouse. Ah, no, she did not sew for him; He was her lawful spouse. McLAUGHLIN WILSON. New York, March 13.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

"Science" a Succession of Refuted Guesses and Mere Assertions.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: The recent bait of a letter from Mr. Goldwin Smith upon your editorial page is pretty sure to get a rise. The metaphor is false, but it has wisdom enough for the knowing. I am not, however, going to make a strike. I simply want to cast a crumb upon the waters and indulge a reflection or two upon the always brilliant mirror of THE SUN.

Mr. Smith's question, "What is the Bible?" is a bit naïve. There are whole libraries in answer, and the seventeen double columned pages in the "Encyclopædia Biblica" on the mere canon of the Bible, so casually referred to by Mr. Smith, might have even him wary of the interrogation. What Mr. Smith really means is, "What is the Bible to him?" The answer is easy: Mere literature. There are others to whom it is more than mere literature. Between Mr. Smith and the others the question is a "standoff." He asserts; they assert. He says that he has difficulties which he cannot reconcile; they say his difficulties are no difficulties. They declare that Mr. Smith is a sceptic, an essential doubter; and an essential doubter has no fundamental principles, and where there are no fundamental principles there can be no argument. If you are to knock a man down he must first be standing up. You might kick a prostrate man into an upright position, but when he insists on immediately lying down again you quit a job with so little fun in it.

There is another naïve question Mr. Smith asks: "Can anybody now believe the story told in Genesis of the creation and temptation?" One might imagine from the way the question is put, and Mr. Smith evidently does so imagine, that this is a knockout blow, that the whole structure of Christian faith has been blown to smithereens by interrogatory lyddite. A bomb exploded in midair may read the atmosphere and make a tremendous concussion, but the sun will still shine. Until Mr. Smith—and Mr. Smith stands here for the sceptic in general—can throw a big enough bomb into the sun he may bombard the heavens for a year and a day and still the unperturbed stars will follow their celestial courses.

Underlying Mr. Smith's question is the cool assumption that the story of Genesis does not square with demonstrated truth. To answer a question by a question: Where has this truth been demonstrated? Mr. Smith's ready answer is no doubt in the magic word science. This is sending us to a beggar for wealth. Science has gone bankrupt these several years, as Mr. Brunette some time ago remarked. It did once swagger and strut as a plutocrat, and there may still be some in the backwoods of knowledge who pin their faith to its ancient boast of opulence; but who that is aware of its speculative shipwreck will now discount its theological paper? Of all the fallen gods of modern Babylon none has fallen so low as this erstwhile braggart. Square Genesis with science? First let science square itself with itself. Science is now simply a field strewn with wrecked hypotheses, a pitiful arena where guess has slain guess in monotonous rotation, as gladiator slew gladiator under the eyes of the Roman populace until they too grew weary of the folly.

Be it understood I am speaking of science as Mr. Goldwin Smith imagines it, the haughty champion of scepticism laying waste the world of superstition, and not of science as the humble plodder sifting the treasure heap of nature to glean some beneficent facts for the material comfort of mankind. Atoms have gone the way of myths; radium site enthroned, and its title is as doubtful as any of its vainglorious predecessors. We are weary of moving around and around in this infinite circle of scientific littleness. One guess on top of another guess is only another elephant on top of another tortoise. Men are living and men are dying. Science knows no more about life and death than it did a thousand years ago, and will have approached no nearer to the heart of the mystery a thousand years hence. We are not going to square the Bible with science. There is no need. When science can stand squarely on its own legs it will be time enough to inquire if it is sober. Goldwin Smith's question is obsolete. New York, March 13. FISCHER.

WOMAN ANTI-SUFFRAGIST.

A Gariboldi Poem Which Might Have Been Written Yesterday.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: The Women's Journal has recently carried an amusing poem on the anti-suffragist written many years ago by William Lloyd Garrison. Some lines of it read as if they had been written on purpose to fit recent events at Albany. The poem says, in part: Remonstrance was lack of conviction and of ease, Who faced the best society with manners made to please. She was exclusive in her taste, and thought reformers trifles. Especially the female ones who work for woman's rights. As for herself, Remonstrance said, she never wished to vote; On sweet domestic privacy she dearly loved to dote. To put a ballot in the box necessitated thought, A disagreeable process, and with many dangers fraught. So to prevent her cherished sex from bracing public speech, She went before committees, against the vote to preach. Lost womanhood should soul itself in unclean party strife, She organized a league herself, infused with party spirit. She deprecated methods to which lobbyists resort, So she buttonholed the members of the Great and General Court. Besought them with her sweetest smiles and utmost social tact To shut out women from the polls, and kill the suffrage act. The dangers of deserted homes she eloquently deplored. If women went to caucuses and left their quiet fold; Their husbands, buttonless and sad, must tend the little flock. Must be the fires going and the baby's cradle rock. So exclaiming was her mission that her sex the home might keep, She stole her husband away from home and went home late to sleep. Remonstrance and her kind have lived in every age and clime. Alas! the progress which is smote the wrongs that outraged the time. Right valiantly they battle for every ancient wrong. Their efforts always overruled to help the right alone. A most discouraging crusade—for labor, only pain; The cause they fight still waning, while the one they champion waxes. Yet they ever come up smiling when he hated change arrives. And act as though his triumph were the object of their lives. The foregoing lines are as true now as on the day when they were written. G. L. K. Boston, March 12.

Request to Irishmen and Friends of Ireland.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: The Gaelic Society through the powerful medium of the press requests that Irish men and women and all friends of Ireland purchase only artistic or patriotic Irish-made goods. The Gaelic Society has been the cause of the caricatures or travesties on Ireland and Irishmen to the vendors and bigots. MICHAEL FOX, Chairman of the Executive Committee. New York, March 12.

Berlin's Scribble.

The author of "The School for Scandal" never had a copying clerk. His handwriting was the wonder of the town. It was so truly terrible that it baffled all his correspondents. One day he wrote to Mr. Yorke on Monday a long letter. He got off the train at Gurdale. From the Kansas City Times.

The writer in the Chicago Opera House sagged eight inches in a ministerial performance, but the show was so good that somebody ran out and got a few fence rails, propped up the gallery and the performance continued. Regarding Mr. White's Flight. From the Coffee County News. The report that has been going the rounds in the city that Mr. George White of the New force made a flying trip to New York on Sunday is a mistake. He got off the train at Gurdale. Tax Dodging. Mr. Kinkaid—What will you do if they tax 100 percent on what you do? Mr. Kinkaid—Take my breakfast in bed.

THE NEW CHARTER.

No Magic in the Mere Substitution of One Document for Another.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: It seems to me that the delay of the Charter Revision Commission in submitting its report to the Legislature is, to say the least, unfortunate. The session is now so far advanced that there will be no time for a thorough discussion of the Charter if it is to be enacted this year. If, however, the measure is left over for the next Legislature it is unlikely to receive the impartial and dispassionate consideration which its importance demands. During the intervening election the Charter is certain to be suggested only to the level of a party measure, a measure to be defended or attacked in accordance with the interests of professional officeholders.

The Charter is of necessity a complicated and highly technical affair. The average voter cannot be expected to form an independent conclusion as to its worth. He must accept the judgment of others who are presumably informed on the practice and theory of government, and he is further obliged to weigh the sincerity of the opinion expressed by those to whom he looks for advice. Now there has been no public discussion of the new Charter. So far as discussion of the new Charter is concerned the average voter is concerned the work of the revision commission has been conducted in secret. In the absence of public discussion while the work has been in progress there has been no means of knowing whether the Charter appeals to the judgment of disinterested authorities, regardless of their party affiliation; and the personnel of the revision commission is not such as to inspire confidence of itself.

What are the evils which the new Charter is intended to correct? Which of these are due to deficiency in the present Charter and which to incompetence and neglect of duty on the part of responsible public officials? Trustworthy information on this point is not likely to be had during a political campaign. The Charter is a substitute for the limitations of the present Charter. It would be futile to expect to devise a better instrument of government. To my mind most of the evils complained of are purely administrative, and I have been struck by the amount of anxiety for correction them with the Board of Estimates has discovered of late in the existing Charter under proceeding from the Bureau of Municipal Research. I think it will be a distinct loss if in the confusion of counsel over a new municipal constitution the public is led to believe that the Charter is a substitute for the printed document for another will give this town an efficient and automatically honest government. MICHAEL ANDREAS. New York, March 11.

OVERCOMING THE DEFICIT.

Complaint of One Who Hopes the Poor Needn't Pay the Shit.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: The proposal to make up the Treasury deficiency by taxation of necessities like sugar, tea and coffee, the so-called "breakfast tax," makes us poor folks gasp.

Is this fair? Should the poor bear the brunt of this maladministration of public funds with which they had nothing to do? Why not let the wealthy pay their rightful share? The wealthy have chauffeurs, liveries, coats of arms, champagne, expensive silks, furs and jewels, furniture and curios, such as only the wealthy can afford to possess, and all vehicles above a certain grade. Include racehorses, jockeys and everything else pertaining to and principally used by the rich. It does not seem fair to put an additional burden on those who owing to the already greatly increased prices of the necessities of life find living in anything like comfort an exceedingly difficult problem. BROOKLYN, March 13. HONOR SENER.

Microbes in Extremely Cold Lands.

From the London Standard. Budget correspondence the Lancet. The town committee of Szamosvár has decided to utilize the remains of the thousand year old wall of the Roman fortress which has remained since the Roman occupation. The water mains were discovered by Professor Ortelius, an archaeologist, who states that the great reservoir and the extensive canal served as the water supply of a Roman military camp—Conspicuum. The great reservoir lies on a high hill near the town. The dirt which has collected in the basin and mains during many centuries has been removed, and the water is now so clear that they should be thousands of years old. The medical officer of the town has declared the water basin and the mains to be fit for use.

Microbes in Extremely Cold Lands.

From the London Standard. We are accustomed to think of cold and continuous cold as being an enemy to life of every sort, but data furnished to the Pasteur Institute in Paris by Dr. Charcot, the Antarctic explorer, prove that the cold of the Antarctic continent, of the south polar regions still allows various forms of microbe life to flourish. On examining the intestines of animals twenty-four different kinds of microbes were found, and of these fifteen were already known to exist in Europe. From the microbes found in soil taken from the Antarctic continent where the foot of man had never trod were found to be identical with those of the inhabited world.

Why Laugh at the Swagger Stick?

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: There anything humorous in a "swagger stick"? I have carried one for years, and I have heard of